

DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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## CONTENTS

South Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

Korea: Pyongyang is defensive yet defiant in its first formal statement on the shootdown. (Page 2)

Lebanon: Civil disturbances follow government efforts to control the fedayeen. (Page 5)

USSR: The military portion of the Moscow May Day parade may have been canceled. (Page 6)

India: A dispute over economic planning underlines weakened Congress Party authority. (Page 7)

Burma: Government's campaign suggests delay in political changes. (Page 8)

25X1

Somali Republic: National police commander is ousted. (Page 10)

Israel-Egypt: Commando raids (Page 11)

Peru: Delegation to Washington (Page 11)

Brazil: Terrorist incidents (Page 11)

25X1

USSR-Mongolia: Communications satellite ground station. (Page 12)

Common Market - Yugoslavia: Trade negotiations (Page 12)

SECRET

**[South Vietnam:** The low level of military activity of recent weeks continued on 22-23 April, but there are increasing indications that the enemy is preparing for another offensive this summer.

25X1

[Communist forces are at least laying the groundwork for renewed, large-scale fighting, possibly to begin in June. These reports mention several different urban areas as intended targets, but repeatedly specify Saigon as the prime objective.]

Ambitious plans of this sort were also reported prior to the recent winter-spring campaign, but enemy forces were unable to put them into effect.

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[The enemy is keenly aware of his shortcomings in carrying out earlier plans and has some doubt about the chances of success in a campaign this summer.]

It appears likely that the reported preparations for another Communist offensive this summer are still in the preliminary stages, thus leaving ample room for alterations. What the enemy may attempt in June will depend upon events in South Vietnam and Paris.

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Korea: Pyongyang has adopted a defensive yet defiant stance in its first formal pronouncement on the EC-121 incident.

The North Koreans clearly have been playing for time in which to assess US intentions. The defensive tone of the government statement on 23 April suggests that the North Korean leaders are well aware of their weak international position and are fully conscious of the hazards in any further military provocations against heavily defended US fleet units and installations.

The North Koreans made a feeble attempt to link the EC-121 with the Pueblo affair, but the weakness of their case is evident in their failure to cite a precise location for the alleged intrusion of the US plane. The omission of details contrasts sharply with the elaborate attempt to "document" the Pueblo's violation of North Korean waters.

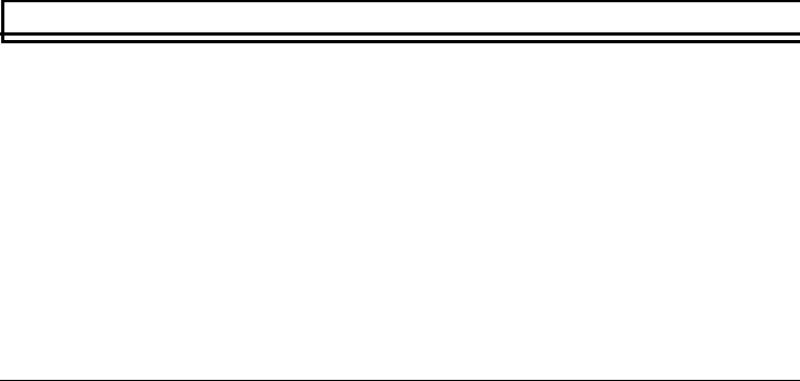
The statement attempts to offset the weakness of the North Korean claim by adopting a defiant stance with regard to any future US intrusions. In an obvious attempt to play upon foreign uneasiness regarding US intentions, the statement claims there is no "guarantee" that US flights "will not intrude again." It further seeks to cast doubt on US intentions by warning that the US will exploit any North Korean defensive reaction as a pretext to "commit full-scale attack" which may lead to another "total war" in Korea.

An incident along the central sector of the Demilitarized Zone on 23 April apparently was not directly related to Pyongyang's response to the resumption of US reconnaissance flights. The North

Koreans fired on a UN Command guard post, probably in order to cover the retreat of reconnaissance personnel who had stumbled into a nearby minefield two hours earlier.

The North Koreans presumably were attempting to collect information on South Korean and US force deployments since the shootdown on 15 April. Similar probes and encounters along the Demilitarized Zone occurred in the period immediately following the Pueblo seizure. The fire fight was cited by a Pyongyang domestic service broadcast as a serious "new provocation" by the US.

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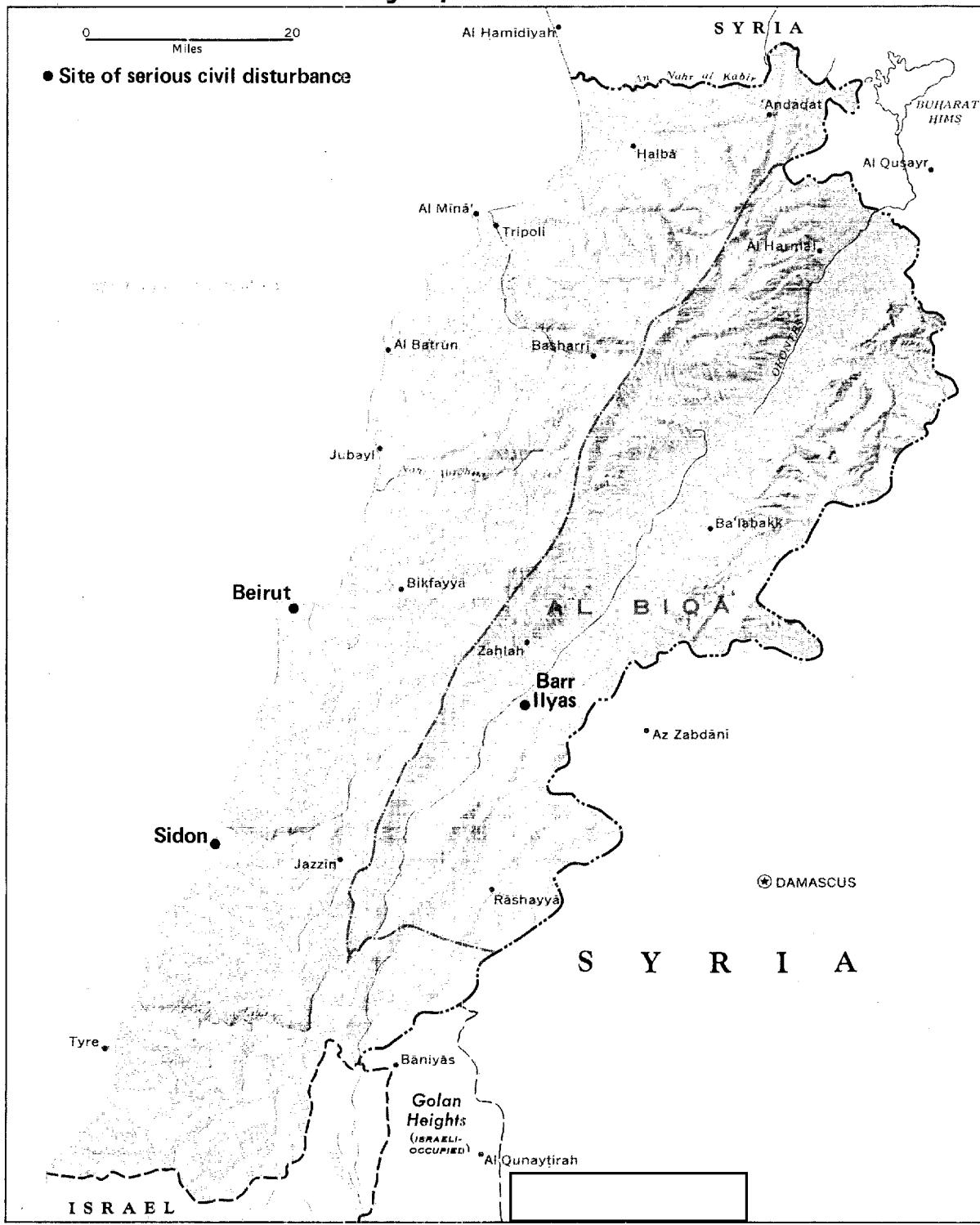
South Korea appears to be continuing to make a deliberate effort to keep in step with the US position. 

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## LEBANON: State of National Emergency Declared

#### • Site of serious civil disturbance



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Lebanon: [ Serious civil disturbances have developed as a result of the government's effort to control the fedayeen.

A state of national emergency--scheduled to last until 27 April--has been declared by the cabinet following a number of demonstrations yesterday protesting the government's recent actions against the fedayeen groups. Armed Palestinians from a refugee camp near Sidon in southern Lebanon clashed with security forces; three refugees were killed and some 30 wounded. Three more demonstrators were killed and 25 persons wounded in a subsequent clash in Beirut. Troops are still patrolling city streets and are guarding key buildings as well as the American University. In Barr Ilyas, Biqa Province, yet another incident resulted in 14 injuries and the death of a security officer. ]

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USSR: The Soviets may have canceled all or part of the military portion of the Moscow May Day parade.

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[redacted] report that the military equipment assembled at Moscow's Central Airport in preparation for the parade has not been seen at the airport or at other likely assembly areas since the night of 8-9 April. The equipment--including missiles, tanks, and artillery--had arrived at the airport about 3 April as is the usual practice.

Night rehearsals for the parade were due to begin in Red Square this week, but so far only dismounted marching elements have been seen.

There is no persuasive explanation for such a sharp break with tradition. Moscow may wish to play down the military section of the parade as a way of promoting a "peaceful image," although preparations for a military parade in Leningrad were noted as late as 20 April. [redacted]

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India: A public hassle over the new fourth five-year plan again underlines the weakened authority of the Congress Party leadership in New Delhi.

The chief ministers of the left-Communist dominated governments in Kerala and West Bengal refused to endorse the new plan during a meeting of all chief ministers on 19 April. Open criticism came from several Congress state ministers who believe the plan does not provide adequate funds for state-run development projects. New Delhi is already under fire for delays in proposing the fourth plan, originally scheduled to begin in 1966. It must now present the plan to parliament with chief ministers still carping at the plan despite a last-minute agreement by New Delhi to reconsider the level of funds for the states.

The Congress Party's decline at the polls, reflected in electoral defeats in 1967 and in several state mid-term elections in February 1969, has weakened central government leverage on center-state issues, especially because regional and local parties have profited most from Congress' losses. The left-Communists, whose victories in Kerala and West Bengal reflect local hostility to New Delhi, will continue to harass the government on center-state issues. Congress state leaders, moreover, appear increasingly responsive to local demands even in the face of counterpressure from the center.

Meanwhile, the Congress hierarchy continues to squabble, and decision making is hampered by weak and vacillating leadership from Prime Minister Gandhi. A cabinet member joined the chief ministers in attacking the five-year plan in the most recent example of dissension in senior Congress ranks. Intraparty disputes inhibit coherent government and party policy at a time when Congress should be consolidating its forces in preparation for the difficult general elections of 1972.

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Burma: A vociferous government press campaign against parliamentary democracy suggests that political changes will be delayed.

The press attacks, which came just before General Ne Win's expected return from a month in London, are probably intended by Ne Win and his government to scotch expectations of early political changes. The choice of Brigadier San Yu, a relatively moderate member of the ruling Revolutionary Council, as one of the spokesmen was probably meant to disabuse politicians of any idea that the military hierarchy will make significant concessions.

Former Premier U Nu, who retains much of his popularity and who has recently conducted religious lectures in a thinly disguised political campaign, was a particular target of criticism.

In the latter half of 1968, Ne Win made ambiguous statements about bringing civilians into the government and set up an advisory body of former politicians to submit suggestions for changes in government structure and policy. He reportedly has been displeased by the politicians' bickering, however, and has not responded to their proposals, submitted in early February, that civilians be given a role in the government.

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Somali Republic: National police commander General Mohamed Abscir has been ousted by the Egal government.

Abscir, who was replaced by the able deputy commander General Korshel following a cabinet decision on 21 April, has been named Somali ambassador to Paris. Abscir's ouster is a result of his long-standing feud with Prime Minister Egal which broke into the open earlier this year. Egal temporarily shelved the "Abscir affair" during the national election campaign by placing the general on enforced leave in late February, but it was clear that Abscir might eventually be eased out.

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[redacted] The end came sooner than expected, however; most thought that a final solution would be delayed until June, when Abscir was due back on duty.

Technically, until the nomination of a new prime minister by President Scermache is acted upon by parliament, Egal heads only a caretaker government. It appears, however, that Egal feels confident enough that he will again head the government to move against Abscir now.

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NOTES

Israel-Egypt: Continuation of Egyptian commando raids across the Suez Canal may provoke a major Israeli raid against some Egyptian targets. The Israelis, who are well dug in, are suffering far less damage than the Egyptians from the artillery duels across the canal, but this week six Israeli soldiers were killed and four wounded in the course of Egyptian commando raids. The current state of affairs along the canal is reminiscent of last fall when the situation provoked the Israelis to make a helicopter-borne commando raid deep into Egypt, knocking out two bridges and a power station. [redacted]

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Peru: The delegation arriving in Washington this weekend to discuss outstanding US-Peruvian issues is not likely to make any concessions on the question of compensation for expropriation of facilities of the International Petroleum Company (IPC) or on the territorial waters dispute. In announcing the composition of the delegation, Peruvian Foreign Minister Mercado stated, "the same position which has been made public before will be maintained and followed." President Velasco said in a speech on 22 April that the IPC case is closed and added that "Peru will not make any concessions." [redacted]

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Brazil: Scattered terrorist incidents and bank robberies continue to confound Sao Paulo security authorities, who believe that most of the perpetrators are linked to dissident Communist leader Carlos Marighella. The US Consulate General in Sao Paulo has noted wall signs vowing to avenge the police "murder" of the man who assassinated US Army Captain Chandler last October. Although security forces have rolled up some terrorists in several large cities, including Sao Paulo, key leaders are still at large and will probably remain active. [redacted]

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24 Apr 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

11

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SECRET

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USSR-Mongolia: On 12 April the Soviets began construction on an "Orbita" communications satellite ground station in Ulan Bator. It is scheduled to be completed by April 1970. This is the first such station to be built in a foreign country, although there are now about 24 "Orbita" stations operational within the USSR. The facility will be used to receive Soviet TV programs relayed by Molniya satellites.

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Common Market - Yugoslavia: Common Market trade negotiations with Yugoslavia over granting concessions to important Yugoslav beef exports are still being blocked by the French. France's various objections to the negotiating mandate which the Commission is requesting from the Council were countered by its Community partners and the Commission last week, but the French representative in Brussels later said that there is no possibility that Paris will agree to meaningful concessions.

The issue is subject to a majority vote and the Dutch are considering asking for one, perhaps at the Council meeting on 12 May. A German official, however, contends that the possibility of such a vote is "purely theoretical"--an indication of the difficulties facing full implementation of a common Community trade policy.

25X1

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12

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